

# Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration & Fish Passage

Environmental Impact Statement  
Environmental Impact Report

Public Scoping Meeting  
March 14, 2013



State of California  
Department of Water Resources



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation

# Who We Are

- **Bureau of Reclamation, Bay-Delta Office**
  - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Lead Agency
  - Traci Michel, Project Manager
- **California Department of Water Resources**
  - California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency
  - Marianne Kirkland, Project Manager
- **CDM Smith and HDR, Inc., Joint Venture**
  - Consultant Team
  - Carrie Buckman, Project Manager

# Scoping Meeting Outline

- **30 Minutes**                      **Overview Presentation**
- **90 Minutes**                      **Open House Stations**

# Overview Presentation Agenda

- **Overview of the Yolo Bypass Salmonid Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Project - Planning and Environmental Compliance Phase**
  - Project Background
  - Project Overview
  - Key Project Components
- **Planning and Environmental Compliance Process**
- **Proposed Project Schedule**
- **Next Steps**

# What is Public Scoping?

**Public scoping invites agencies, stakeholders, and the interested public to participate in the environmental review process**

**Scoping helps to identify and refine potential:**

- **Options and alternatives**
- **Environmental impacts**
- **Mitigation measures**

**Notice of Intent and Notice of Preparation published on March 4, 2013**

# Project Background

## 2009 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion (BO)

- Reasonable and Prudent Alternative (RPA) Actions
  - RPA Action I.6.1 - Increase seasonal floodplain inundation in the lower Sacramento River Basin
  - RPA Action I.7 – Improve fish passage throughout the Yolo Bypass
- Required an Implementation Plan



# Implementation Plan

- Describes the activities, process, and timeline required to implement RPA Actions I.6.1 and I.7
  - Biological objectives and performance measures
  - Potential actions for further consideration
  - Planning and environmental compliance process
  - Milestones

The completed Implementation Plan can be accessed at the Project's website:

<http://www.usbr.gov/mp/BayDeltaOffice/Documents/yolo.html>

# Related Efforts

- Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)
- Delta Plan
- Central Valley Flood Protection Plan (CVFPP)
- Remanded Biological Opinions
- Integrated Regional Water Management Planning
- Others



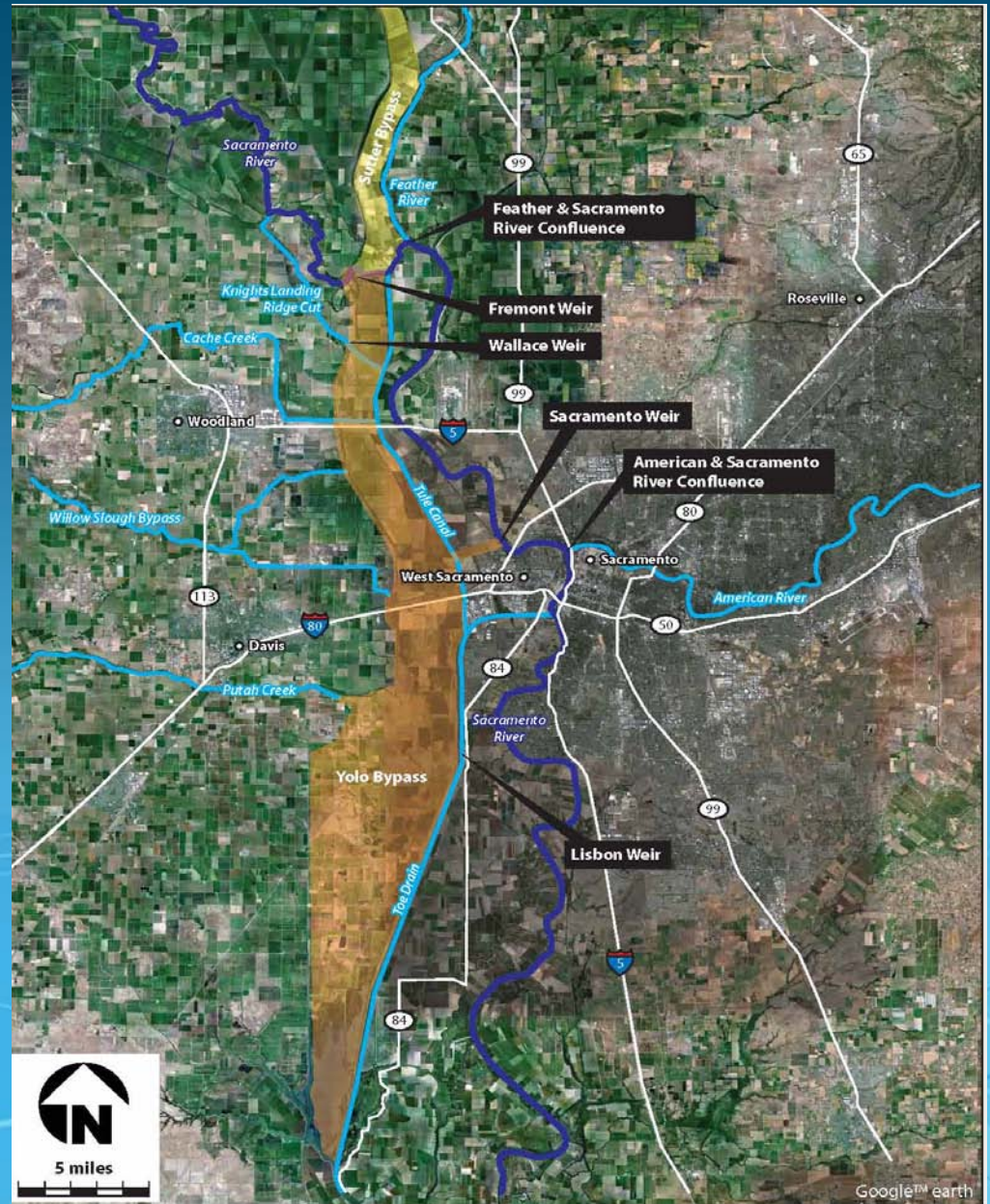
# Comparison of RPA Actions I.6.1 and I.7 and BDCP Conservation Measure 2 (CM2)

	<b>RPA Actions I.6.1 and I.7</b>	<b>BDCP CM 2</b>
<b>Objective</b>	Avoid jeopardizing Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species	Conservation and management of BDCP covered species
<b>Acreage Target</b>	17,000-20,000 acres	7,000 – 17,000 acres
<b>Plan Area</b>	I.6.1 - Lower Sacramento River Basin  I.7 - Yolo Bypass	Yolo Bypass

# Vicinity Map

## Legend

-  Yolo Bypass Area
-  Features



# Purpose and Need/Project Objectives

- **Need:**
  - Decline in abundance, spatial distribution, and life history diversity associated with ESA-listed fish species
  - Lost habitat quality and ability to access that habitat
- **Purpose:**
  - Create more suitable conditions for fish in the Yolo Bypass and/or lower Sacramento River basin by implementing RPA Actions I.6.1 and I.7

# Potential Elements for Alternatives

- Physical and operational modifications at Fremont, Sacramento and Lisbon weirs
- Removal of barriers to fish passage within the Bypass
- Actions to improve connectivity to reduce fish stranding in the Bypass
- Modifications at Knights Landing Ridge Cut and/or Wallace Weir to reduce adult fish straying
- Changes in inundation periods, durations, and acreages in the Bypass
- Other measures suggested through the scoping process



# Potential Environmental Effects

- Key resource areas that have the potential to be affected by the Project include:
  - Water resources, including water quality, groundwater & water supply, and flood control
  - Land use, including agriculture
  - Biological resources, including fish, wildlife, and plant species
  - Air quality
  - Global climate change
  - Recreation

# Planning and Environmental Compliance










- Evaluate a range of alternatives that meet the project purpose and could reduce or avoid environmental impacts
- Provide information for public review and comment
- Identify any significant environmental impacts
- Disclose the impacts, mitigation, and public comments



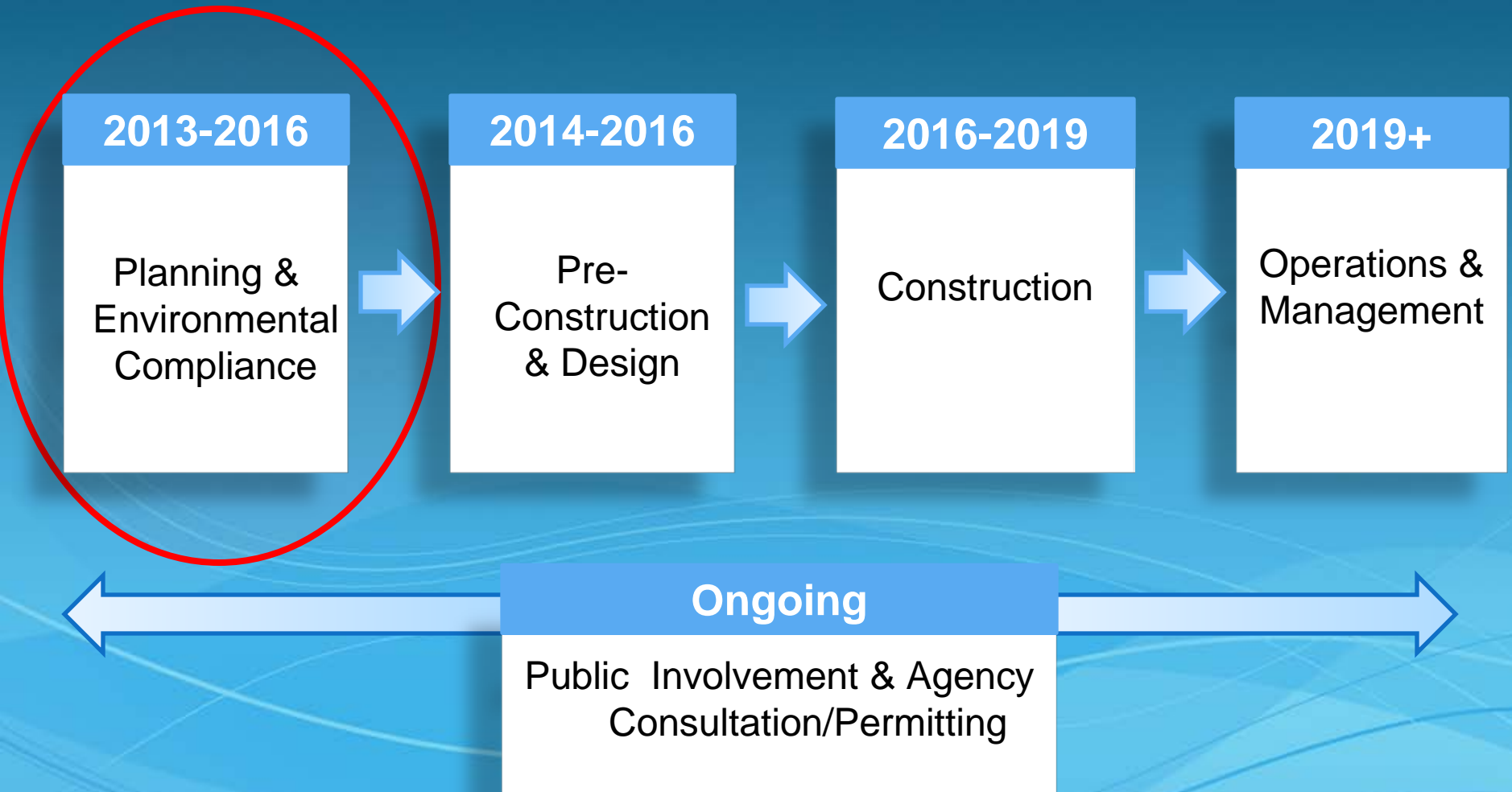
# Environmental Compliance Process



# Proposed Schedule

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>NEPA/CEQA Contracting</b>					
<b>Notice of Intent/Preparation</b>					
<b>Public Scoping</b>					
<b>Alternatives Development &amp; Impact Analysis</b>					
<b>Public Draft EIS/EIR</b>					
<b>ESA &amp; NHPA Consultations</b>					
<b>Final EIS/EIR</b>					
<b>Record of Decision/Notice of Determination</b>					
<b>Stakeholder Outreach</b>					

# Overall Project Implementation





# Next Steps

- All public comments due by April 4, 2013
- Reclamation and DWR will consider public input to develop and screen project alternatives and analyze and disclose project impacts
- Next opportunity for public comment will be during the public review period for the Draft EIS/EIR

# How to Comment

- Provide oral comments to the court reporter at Station 4
- Fill out a comment form and return it to the comment box at Station 4
- By April 4, mail the comment card to the address on the back; or mail, email or fax a letter to the contact information below

Bay-Delta Office  
Bureau of Reclamation, Interior  
801 I Street, Suite 140  
Sacramento, CA 95814-2536

**Attention:** Traci Michel  
**Telephone:** (916) 414-2420  
**Fax:** (916) 414-2439  
**Email:** [tmichel@usbr.gov](mailto:tmichel@usbr.gov)

*Please include your name, address, and email address.*

# Resources

- **Project Websites:**

- [http://www.water.ca.gov/environmentalservices/yolo\\_by\\_pass\\_salmonid.cfm](http://www.water.ca.gov/environmentalservices/yolo_by_pass_salmonid.cfm)
- <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/BayDeltaOffice/Documents/yolo.html>

- **Project Managers:**

- Marianne Kirkland, DWR  
[marianne.kirkland@water.ca.gov](mailto:marianne.kirkland@water.ca.gov)
- Traci Michel, Reclamation  
[tmichel@usbr.gov](mailto:tmichel@usbr.gov)



# Stations

- **Station 1 – Project area, purpose and need, potential elements for alternatives**
- **Station 2 – Relationships to other projects and initiatives, environmental review process, public scoping process**
- **Station 3 – Key resource areas**
- **Station 4 – How to submit comments**